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ABSTRACT

This book examines issues facing higher education today, especially the need to reverse the frequently adversarial relationship between the academy and the larger society. Chapter 1 addresses common criticisms of the university. Chapter 2 considers issues of freedom and order, the role of trustees, alumni, and university administration and organization. Chapter 3 is about faculty work, including the professorial role, tenure and promotion, faculty compensation, teaching, research, and accountability. Chapter 4 discusses the dilemma of faculty politics, including such issues as female/minority faculty, free speech, racism, and multicultural education. Chapter 5 considers the politics of violence and harassment, and analyzes several specific cases. Chapter 6 discusses student-related issues, including gender differences in learning, choosing an undergraduate college, grade inflation, athletics, graduation, and some student-related university dilemmas. Student learning and politics, including such issues as cheating, drinking, and homosexuality, are the focus of chapter 7. Chapter 8 offers several profiles of faculty members, and chapter 9 offers suggestions for change, such as more rigorous requirements for faculty tenure, simplifying organizational structure, fewer and better programs, year-round operation, and rejection of the corrosive politics of self-interest and incivility. (Individual chapters contain references.) (DB)

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